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Correspondence

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4-21-1918

## Letter: Wesley Bouslog to Opal Valentine Baker, April 21, 1918

Wesley Bouslog

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4/21/18

Dear:

Your letter of the 4/17 at hand and also the box of Candy. Thanks for it. I beyond doubt enjoyed, and will say that it contained the sweetest which the sender was long ago endowed with. The most I can do at the present is to thank you but the favor shall long be remembered.

Just to clear up the point of mail, I will say that mail for delivery within the U.S. is never censored. When the destination of it is outside of the U.S. it is then censored. It is true that "letters are read in every camp" but only by the one addressed to! Ha! At the point. Write anything you choose as long as I am in the U.S.A. and I assure you that I only shall read them. After leaving the U.S.A. then U.S. says just how much of your letter I shall read. I read all that he does not blot out as censored. As long as a letter contains nothing of military importance it does not receive the blots of the censor. Say will you please rest at ease and forget about the little



trip you had with 7 Whitworths?  
You are perfectly welcome to take  
a hundred more like them if you  
choose and I assure you that  
never will you hear one word of  
reproach from me. You can  
go wherever you choose and enjoy  
yourself as I hope you will and yet  
you can beyond all doubt be true  
to the one of your dreams. Being  
true to one does not deprive one  
from innocent pleasures. The  
conscience alone will dictate  
when loyalty has been broken.

Who dares by either correspondence  
or words to break my faith in you  
will find that they are only wasting  
time. Should I myself overstep  
the bounds of loyalty I am then  
not worthy of you. As for you over-  
stepping them is a matter which  
I am sure will never occur. Let me  
repeat "What care I what people say?"  
I shall act from the dictates of my  
own conscience not from dictations  
of those who would create unhappiness  
and unrest to me. Oh! don't pay  
attention to others, but tell them I  
said, "Go mind their own business  
their words to me will count as  
much as if the Kaisers had said  
them and that is of a minus



quantity. Get out and have your pleasures, I shall be happy to know that you do. What brings happiness and pleasure to you I shall always say "Good and Well." You should not worry about such for I am sure that your intentions are beyond criticism.

J. Mount is back from his furlough and says he is glad to be "Back in the job again." It seems as that is the way all the boys feel.

L. G. and Vare at the Y. The selection "Indiana" is very popular with the boys here and quite often do you find them playing it on the photograph. They have only played it three times already while I have been here, but it never gets old and next to the "Star Spangled Banner" is the most pleasing of all selections.

Now almost time to stand "Retreat" so I will finish this letter. We'll once again have I paid respect and tribute to Old Glory.

Well, Valentine, when are you going to send me one of your photographs of your present likeness? I would love to see you look in



April 1918. Just take the Camera and have someone photograph u.

I wonder what you are doing just now. Having a pleasant time I hope.

Have you taken your vacation yet? I know u haven't but I said it so you wouldn't forget that people sometimes take vacations and it sometimes is a wonderful benefit to their health.

What you need is a tour of the world in a Ford. Ha! A Studebaker might suffice but nothing can beat a Ford.

Well, I was talking to a young civilian from Jacksonville and he was visiting the camp and he told me that in time several little soldiers and sailors were expected in Jacksonville in the near future. You catch the point don't you? He said "There is nothing that the soldiers and sailors will be denied." I am thankful that I have not contributed to any of the blot which a few unthoughtful boys place upon the uniform which they wear. If they are guilty, then they are not worthy of the uniform which U.S. expects them to honor. These boys are not



totally to blame and I presume that every case is credited to the boys in Kakai. I wager however that some of the incidents are due to civilian lads who shift the blame upon the boys serving U. S. As I have no right to condemn my own comrades I can only say that soldiers and sailors are human. The man who offers his life for his country is not to be condemned by those who live under their protection. I do not mean to leave the idea that they should be allowed to commit wrongs or to bring dishonor to our American Gals but that condemnation should not come from those who as civilians are unwilling to sacrifice their lives that the honor of their country may be retained. The true American deplors the dishonor which any of our comrades may bring to our girls. Manliness lies in the ability and desire to rectify the wrong which may bring dishonor to any one. In spite of all as Robert Burns said "A man's a man for a' that" and again "A woman's a woman for a' that" as I am not guilty I shall not meddle with what personally concerns others.



But I just wanted you to have  
an idea that life in Jacksonville  
is like any northern city. No  
matter where a soldier goes he  
is afforded the greatest hospitality  
but the idea is this. Our civilian  
boys who envy us are want to  
circulate such as will cast a  
bad reflection upon our characters.  
"C" Today we have more gentlemen  
in the army than outside that is  
of our young men. I said to this  
boy, "Well, what are you harping  
about? Aren't you getting your  
share or are you holding malice  
against the Sammies because they  
girls look upon you as only a  
second choice? If you are U.S. has  
uniforms which have never been  
rown and which will fit you. Don't  
a uniform and be first choice".  
It does me good to set down on  
a young man who finds fault  
with those who are. I dare say this  
young chap will never be casting  
reflection on Kakai Lads in the future.  
One of my friends who stood beside me  
says to top off all, "Yes, fair lad, you  
must be content to take their  
leavings". No more did we see of



This Civilian Lad. Laugh I should say we did. We beat him at his own game. The remark that he said that "Sailors and Sailors would be denied nothing" was said in a sarcastic manner or otherwise our conversation might have been a pleasant one. We love to be approached by civilians and love to talk to them for it makes us feel as if we were conversing with those who had an interest in us and when visiting camp, when we have time we show them about camp.

When you speak of Camp Johnston you will find that the personnel of this camp is highly intelligent and thus naturally quick to pick up any sarcasm which is directed against us. Abuse a soldier and you soon have the ill-will of the entire bunch just like a school of fish. We stick together thru thick & thin.

Well, what was my text? Ha. Oh: Yes: "Many little Sailors and Soldiers are coming to



Jacksonville. Well I personally  
am not helping to bring them  
here, so I am not worrying.

I don't presume this is  
at all interesting. Oh, if I  
could talk of military facts, I  
could write an interesting  
letter, but such said orders are  
to be obeyed, so I shall have  
many things to tell you when I  
can personally talk with you.

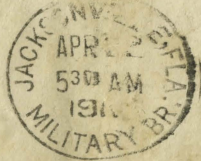
My Queen, I must close with  
sweetest memories and hopes for  
a happy future. I am

Yours  
W.D.





"WITH THE COLORS"



Miss Opal V. Baker,  
Sulphur Spring  
Henry County, Indiana.



From  
Wes Lee Bouslog  
Camp Joseph E. Johnston  
Jacksonville, Fla.

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